

MEMORANDUM REPORT

BUREAU OF NARCOTICS

DISTRICT NO. 16

LAOS

CASE FILE NO. REPORT MADE	GEN. FILE TITLE:	OTHER OFFICERS
AT: Bangkok, Thailand DATE: January 3, 1966 BY: Albert Habib Narcotic Agent	RELATED FILES	
SUBJECT OF THIS MEMORANDUM		RECOMMENDATION
Information re: Production of opium and factories for conversion of opium into morphine base and heroin in Laos.		PENDING: CLOSE: FURTHER INVESTIGATION: XXX
DETAILS (if report is over two pages in length summarize in first paragraph)		

1. On December 15, 1965 I was directed by District Supervisor Bowman G. Taylor to proceed to Vientiane, Laos and investigate the information re: heroin factory at Louangprabang, (Time magazine) refer to memorandum report by Assistant to the Commissioner, John R. Enright dated December 2, 1965. I was also instructed to attempt to locate other factories, make undercover approaches to narcotic traffickers, and attempt to obtain local cooperation with view of enforcing narcotics laws in Laos.

2. As directed, I left Bangkok, Thailand on December 15, 1965 and via Thai Airways I proceeded to Vientiane, Laos where I arrived same day at 4:30PM. Upon my arrival I reported to the US Embassy and attempted to confer with Mr William H. Sullivan Ambassador in Laos, regarding my presence and my objective. Because of the late hour of my arrival I was told to return the next morning.

3. On December 16, 1965 I reported to the US Embassy and was introduced to Mr Elwood McGuire regional Security Officer, and to Mr July Dear Officer in charge of the US Marine Corp and Deputy Security Officer with whom I had a conference regarding my mission in Laos. I then was introduced to Mr Coby Swank Deputy Chief of the Mission with whom I had a long conversation regarding the narcotic traffic in Laos. I was told by Mr Swank not to do anything until I met and conferred with Mr Sullivan (Ambassador). Mr Swank however suggested that I meet and talk to Mr Douglas Blanford and Mr James Lilley of the Embassy's Political Section.

4. I then met with Mr Blanford and Mr Lilley and conferred regarding my presence in Laos, and requested their cooperation. Mr Blanford and Mr Lilley who are very well acquainted with the opium traffic in Laos told me briefly that the opium trade in Laos has been and still is controlled by a group of high Government officials and Army officers. Chinese and Corsicans are also

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SIGNATURES

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 Albert Habib

(NARCOTIC AGENT)

APPROVED:

(DISTRICT SUPERVISOR)

Bowman G. Taylor

involved but are usually contacts on the buying and selling trade. They also told me that they were aware of heroin processing plants at Louangprabang and Houei Sai, where large quantities of opium entering from Yunnan Province and Burma is channeled into these factories. I requested Mr Blanford and Mr Lilley to attempt to obtain more information regarding these factories and if possible pictures. I was promised that they would attempt to do so and forward a report to our office in Bangkok.

5. On December 16, 1965 I met and conferred with Mr W.H. Sullivan U.S. Ambassador in Laos regarding my visit and the narcotic traffic in general. Mr Sullivan was very concerned re: my presence in Laos without notifying the Embassy in advance, and mostly concerned for my safety. Mr Sullivan instructed me not to make any undercover approaches, nor contact any of the Laotian authorities re: cooperation, but confined me to conduct my investigation only with American personnel stationed in Vientiane and compile a report, at which time I would report back to Mr Sullivan and decide what could be done.

6. I was further told by Mr Sullivan who is also very well up to date on the traffic in Laos, that working in Laos would be a very difficult task because of the involvement of many high Laotian personalities. Mr Sullivan knew of laboratories operating in Louangprabang and Houei Sai. Mr Sullivan told me that most of the opium grown in Laos is used by the Hill tribes for smoking. The Opium that is converted into morphine and heroin enter Laos via the Burmese and Chinese borders, then taken to Louangprabang and Houei Sai where it is converted into morphine and heroin.

7. Mr Sullivan further told me that if during my investigation in Laos I would come up with information leading to any American involvement in the narcotic traffic, or if we could prove that any of the narcotics processed in Laotian laboratories are reaching the United States, he would then make the necessary approaches to the right peoples, and cooperation could maybe obtained on Governmental basis.

8. I pointed out to Mr Sullivan the interest that the US Bureau Of Narcotics had regarding any laboratories operating in Laos, and further that all heroin or morphine base processed in Laos was exported to different areas of the world. Because in Laos there is no heroin nor morphine users. I also told Mr Sullivan that a large part of these narcotics is reaching the United States via Hong Kong Singapore, and different parts of Europe.

9. On December 21, 1965 I met and conferred with Mr Paul Skuse Chief US Public Safety Adviser in Laos. Mr Skuse stated that the narcotic problem in Laos is the people that are involved in it. (High Army Officials). Cooperation from local police would be hard to obtain because of the armies power, and the generals involved in the traffic. (General Ouan Rathikoun chief of staff of the Laotian army). Mr Skuse stated that the only person with power to order the police to make a move of this kind would be the Prime Minister, but that he (Mr Skuse) doubt that the Prime Minister would give any such order. Mr. Skuse told me that he would approach some high police officials including the Director of police and find out how much cooperation we could expect from them in the future.

10. On December 23, 1965 I again met with Mr Elanfarb and Mr Lilley and was promised a report and possibly photographs of laboratories operating in Louangprabang and Houei Sai, which I will forward promptly to the Bureau.

11. It is anticipated at this time, that District Supervisor Taylor and myself would go to Vientiane, Laos January 6, 1966 and attempt to obtain the cooperation needed from local authorities, after conferring with Mr W.H. Sullivan US Ambassador.